

# Austin Water – Center for Environmental Research



Austin Water – The University of Texas – Texas A&M University  
A Partnership for Urban Ecology and Sustainability: Community, Ecology, Research  
located at the Hornsby Bend Biosolids Management Plant  
2210 South FM 973, Austin, Texas 78725  
Website: <http://www.austintexas.gov/cer>



## CER Events December 2014

Dec 6

**Saturday 8am** meet at the CER

- **Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership - River Monitoring Trip**
- Join Claude Morris and the Travis County Colorado River Monitoring trip for a day on the river monitoring birds and more, and help the Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership learn more about the ecology of the Colorado River. More about the Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership at the CER website Research, Programs, Partnerships page <http://www.austintexas.gov/page/research-projects-partnerships-and-programs>
- Meet at the CER parking lot at 8:00AM
- A river trip to monitor birds and vegetation along the river and you MUST provide your own boat
- Contact Claude Morris at [cgmorris@flash.net](mailto:cgmorris@flash.net) to participate

Dec 9

**Tuesday NOON to 1pm** at Waller Center, 625 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street [Between Red River and I-35]

- **Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
- 2014 Lunchtime Lecture theme – Nature and the American Mind
- December Lunchtime Lecture: **The End of Nature: Prospective Ecology and the American Mind**
- In 1989, Bill McKibben declared the “End of Nature” as he argued, “The idea of nature will not survive the new global pollution -- We have changed the atmosphere, & thus we are changing the weather, we make every spot on earth man-made & artificial. We have deprived nature of its independence, and that is fatal to its meaning.” Over the course of these 2014 lectures, I have been trying to explain why McKibben is both right and wrong. The classic American idea of wilderness as “nature” has ended, but he ignores the other kinds of nature that have long existed along with “untouched nature” and which persist amidst changes wrought by humankind. In this final lecture of 2014, I will look back over this year’s journey through the four key myths of American nature and look forward to the new prospective vision of nature grounded in the emerging understanding of Earth’s dynamic, resilient ecology.

Dec 10

**Wednesday – NOON to 1pm** at Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Road

- **Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
- 2014 Lunchtime Lecture theme – Nature and the American Mind
- December Lunchtime Lecture: **The End of Nature: Prospective Ecology and the American Mind**
- In 1989, Bill McKibben declared the “End of Nature” as he argued, “The idea of nature will not survive the new global pollution -- We have changed the atmosphere, & thus we are changing the weather, we make every spot on earth man-made & artificial. We have deprived nature of its independence, and that is fatal to its meaning.” Over the course of these 2014 lectures, I have been trying to explain why McKibben is both right and wrong. The classic American idea of wilderness as “nature” has ended, but he ignores the other kinds of nature that have long existed along with “untouched nature” and which persist amidst changes wrought by humankind. In this final lecture of 2014, I will look back over this year’s journey through the four key myths of American nature and look forward to the new prospective vision of nature grounded in the emerging understanding of Earth’s dynamic, resilient ecology.

**Dec 13**

**Saturday 7am-11am and 4pm to dark meet at the CER**

- **Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory Program Monthly Bird Survey**
- The HBBO Bird Survey is open to all levels of birder interested in intensive monitoring, although this is not a field trip. In the morning, we have teams covering different areas of the Hornsby Bend facility, and they count numbers of all birds seen. It is 4 hours of hiking and counting, but lots of fun along the way. We meet again around 11am to tally up the species. The afternoon involves looking around for species missed that morning, and we go until sundown. More information about the CER HBBO program at [www.hornsbybend.org](http://www.hornsbybend.org)

**Dec 17**

**Wednesday - NOON to 1pm** at [Austin City Hall](#), Boards and Commissions Room 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

- **Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
- 2014 Lunchtime Lecture theme – Nature and the American Mind
- December Lunchtime Lecture: **The End of Nature: Prospective Ecology and the American Mind**
- In 1989, Bill McKibben declared the “End of Nature” as he argued, "The idea of nature will not survive the new global pollution -- We have changed the atmosphere, & thus we are changing the weather, we make every spot on earth man-made & artificial. We have deprived nature of its independence, and that is fatal to its meaning." Over the course of these 2014 lectures, I have been trying to explain why McKibben is both right and wrong. The classic American idea of wilderness as “nature” has ended, but he ignores the other kinds of nature that have long existed along with “untouched nature” and which persist amidst changes wrought by humankind. In this final lecture of 2014, I will look back over this year’s journey through the four key myths of American nature and look forward to the new prospective vision of nature grounded in the emerging understanding of Earth’s dynamic, resilient ecology.

**Dec 20**

**Saturday All Day**

- **Austin Christmas Bird Count - More information at <http://www.austincbc.com/>**
  - **CANCELLED - HBBO/Travis Audubon Society - Hornsby Bend Monthly Birding Fieldtrip**
  - The 2014 Austin CBC is scheduled for **December 20<sup>th</sup>** . If you know you'll be there, be sure to send an email to [austincbc@gmail.com](mailto:austincbc@gmail.com) to confirm your participation.

**CANCELLED FOR DECEMBER Ecological Literacy Volunteer Day and Potluck Learning**

For more information about these events contact - Kevin M. Anderson [kevin.anderson@austintexas.gov](mailto:kevin.anderson@austintexas.gov) 512-972-1960

Join our CER Facebook Page for updates on Human Events and Activities: <https://www.facebook.com/austinwatercer>

Join our Hornsby Bend Facebook Page for updates on Hornsby Bend Nonhuman Ecology: <https://www.facebook.com/hornsbybend>